

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 SCS-03
SCA-01 EB-08 COME-00 /062 W
-----291333Z 024640 /53

O 291250Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2629

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 2846

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, PFOR, PINS, AO, CG, MOPS

SUBJECT: EVACUATION OF AMCITE FROM KOLWEZI

1. CONSTRUCTEURS INGA-SHABA (CIS) MANAGEMENT IN KINSHASA AT 1800Z, MARCH 28, CONFIRMED THEIR KOLWEZI MANAGER'S DECISION TO EVACUATE ALL 41 CIS AMCIT EMPLOYEES FROM KOLWEZI TODAY, MARCH 29. EVACUTATION IS PLANNED FOR 1330Z.

2. CIS MANAGEMENT MADE THE DECISION TO EVACUATE KOLWEZI BASED EMPLOYEES UPON THE DETERIORATING MILITARY AND CIVIL SITUATION IN KOLWEZI REPORTED TO KINSHASA BY THEIR KOLWEZI MANAGER, BLANE ROSS. ROSS FEELS CITY OF KOLWEZI WILL FALL TO INVADERS BY THURSDAY, MARCH 31.

3. CIS REQUESTED EMBASSY SEEK MOBUTU'S PERMISSION TO EVACUATE KOLWEZI. PERMISSION WAS GRANTED WITHOUT DELAY. MOBUTU ORDERED BABIA TO RADIO PERMISSION TO EVACUATE TO KOLWEZI AND TO PUT THE ORDER IN WRITING FOR TRANSMISSION TO KOLWEZI BY COURIER MARCH 29. DATT AIRCRAFT WITH FAZ OFFICER AS COURRIER AND WRITTEN EVACUATION PERMISSION FOR GENERAL SINGA, KOLWEZI COMMANDER, DEPARTED KINSHASA AM MARCH 29, ETA KOLWEZI 1300Z.

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4. DEPARTMENT PLEASE NOTE THAT WHILE THE CIS EVACUATION OF KOLWEZI IS IN PROGRESS IT HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED. THEREFORE, PRESS HANDLING SHOULD FOCUS ON THE CIS PLANNING ASPECT OF THE EVACUATION. (SEE PRESS GUIDANCE BELOW).

5. PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT THE PURPOSE OF SENDING THE DATT AIRCRAFT TO KOLWEZI WAS SOLELY TO FACILITATE THE EVACUATION. DATT

POWERS WAS IN KOLWEZI WHEN CIS EVACUATED THEIR DEPENDENTS AND WAS VERY EFFECTIVE IN CONVINCING KOLWEZI MILITARY COMMANDER TO PERMIT THE EVACUATION. CIS MANAGER IN KOLWEZI SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED DATT POWERS' ASSISTANCE IN THIS EVACUATION; AND AMBASSADOR CONCURED. IN ADDITION, RADIO TRANSMISSION OF GOZ PERMISSION TO EVACUATE DID NOT WORK LAST TIME. EMBASSY FELT SUREST WAY TO PREVENT REFUSAL OF PERMISSION TO EVACUATE WAS TO DISPATCH DATT AIRCRAFT.

PARSS GUIDANCE:

1. IS THE AMERICAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY IN KOLWEZI EVACUATING ITS PERSONNEL?

A. WE UNDERSTAND THAT CONSTRUCTEURS INGA-SHABA HAS BEEN MAKING CONTINGENCY PLANS TO EVACUATE ITS PERSONNEL FROM KOLWEZI.

Q. HAS THE EMBASSY IN KINSHASA RECOMMENDED THEIR EVACUATION?

A. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON WHICH TO MAKE ANY SUCH RECOMMENDATION.

ONLY IF ASKED:

Q. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE EMBASSY'S DEFENSE ATTACHE IS NOW IN KOLWEZI. WHY IS HE THERE?

A. THE DEFENSE ATTACHE, WHO PILOTED THE AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED TO THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE, IS IN KOLWEZI TO ASSIST CONSTRUCTEURS INGA-SHABA IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF ITS CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL

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EVACUATION OF CIS PERSONNEL.

Q. WILL THE ATTACHE PLANE EVACUATE AMERICANS FROM KOLWEZI?

A. THERE ARE NO CURRENT PLANS TO USE THE ATTACHE PLANE FOR THIS PRUPOSE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CITIZEN PROTECTION, EVACUATION PLANS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KINSHA02846
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770107-0455
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770312/aaaaajyw.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dead01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2967384
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EVACUATION OF AMCITE FROM KOLWEZI
TAGS: AEMR, PFOR, PINS, MOPS, AO, CG, CIS, CONSTRUCTEURS INGA-SHABA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dead01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009